

KATE FIELD'S LETTERS.

President Dole Talks About Land Bill.

HOW THE NATIVES ARE ASSISTED.

Co-operative vs. Contract Labor—Society Under the Monarchy—A Bit of Constitution History. Annexation to the United States.

(Conclusion.)

Praises the Land Law.

Our present Government land law, I think, answers your question fully. It provides in a liberal way for the people who are without capital. It is particularly prepared to meet the condition of the natives by enabling them to acquire holdings and hold them, one of the systems being inalienable holdings, which cannot be conveyed, mortgaged or devised. The only way natives can lose them is by voluntary abandonment.

"Even when they desire to sell are they prevented?"

"One of the clauses is that they cannot sell, mortgage or devise. The land goes to certain heirs by descent which are fixed by the law. As long as the family line exists the property remains in their possession."

"And when that fails?"

"It reverts to the Government."

"Then you have undertaken to save the native from himself?"

"Yes. Many natives are not thrifty. When they want money they are easily influenced by men who loan it to them in order to get their land. This law is to protect them from losing their holdings though they be thrifless and careless."

"Was this one of the first movements of the republic?"

"Yes. It was constantly the policy of the provisional government, but their views did not crystallize until the first session of the Legislature of the republic; that and the cable were made the main objects of the special session, which adjourned before you arrived."

Annexation the Sole Policy.

"I hear it said that if the United States do not annex the islands they will be offered to England. Is it a possibility?"

"Our sole policy is annexation to the United States."

"Have you anything to say on the subject of contract labor?"

"Contract labor has existed here since sugar plantations were started, but of late years it has been decreasing. All plantations employ a large proportion of day laborers who are not under contract. The necessity and importance of the contract system has been diminishing for a number of years."

"What has taken its place?"

"Day labor and profit sharing."

"Would you kindly explain the latter?"

"Well, the Ewa plantation on this island has elaborated a system of profit sharing that at present is very satisfactory and encouraging. The plantation plows, barrows add plants a field of cane, gives it one irrigation and then hands it over to a company of men."

"Not Hawaiians?"

"I don't know of any Hawaiians taking it up. A company of men take the cane field under an agreement to cultivate it and when the plantation wants to grind the cane they cut and deliver it on the cane cars, which run through the plantation. They receive a stated amount of money every month as an advance. They are paid, I think, so much a ton for the sugar cane, and when the crop is taken off they are paid the surplus of what they have not drawn. Their income in some cases, as compared with working by the day, has been a large advance. In some cases they have made \$27 a month instead of \$15 or \$18. Another sugar plantation at Hilo, Hawaii, allows persons, sometimes individuals, to take a piece of their own land or plantation land and cultivate it. The plantation buys the cane in some way, and these men make a great increase on what they would make in working by the day, as I understand it. The contract labor is valued now mostly in the case of new immigrants who have their passage paid for them. For people who are here the planters prefer to have them work by the day. I think there are more day laborers than contract laborers on the plantations, but I cannot give you the figures."

Woman Question Discussed.

"To return to the burning question of annexation, President Dole, I am told that many of the native and half white women oppose annexation on the ground that they will not be treated on an equality with the whites."

"I think many of them feel that way. The situation is something like this: Part of the community of white people recognize the natives fully and another do not. There is no change from what it was before, except they have lost the standing which the Hawaiian court gave them."

"As I understand it, when the monarch gave entertainments there were comparatively few natives invited."

"At formal events it was mainly white people and a few natives in society who were invited."

"Then their standing has not changed? On state occasions are natives still invited?"

"No distinction whatever is made between natives in society and white persons."

"In the event of annexation, could there not be some provision whereby this equality could be maintained? If carpet baggers did not come, could not the present status remain?"

"Yes, I think the present white residents, those who were born or have grown up here and those who have lived here for many years, have the kindest feelings toward Hawaiians, and a great many of them recognize them as their social equals. A new man who comes here is not likely to do so until he has been here a long time. Some men, if they are thrown into social relations with the Hawaiians at once, do so, but it is not the rule."

"People want to know what are the resources of Hawaii. All they hear about is sugar, and they don't hear about anything else."

"Sugar has been the main industry because it is a business which is well understood, and it has been profitable. Besides that there has been ranching almost ever since any white people began to live here; that has been a profitable business also. Wool growing has been a steady business for fifty or sixty years, but limited in extent. Rice is an important product, ranking next to sugar."

"There are a good many small vegetable gardens. The market is so small that these gardens are mainly in the hands of Chinese. Fruit in Hawaii is raised by natives. Coffee has not been seriously cultivated until the last three years, but coffee has grown wild in Kona, and the natives have picked it. They may have planted it in some cases to increase their yield. In 1850 there were large coffee plantations on the islands, but they were low down near the sea, and the light was so severe that sugar cane was substituted. Now almost all the coffee is raised on high ground. It is more healthy at an elevation of from 2000 to 3000 feet above the sea. About 1500 feet is the best elevation."

"If coffee proves to be a success will all the islands be adapted to it?"

"All have a coffee belt, and it will not interfere with the sugar that grows at a lower elevation. A great deal of the best coffee land on all of the islands is unused; the lower forest islands. Probably the islands will export more in coffee than in sugar; there is nothing to hinder, as far as land goes. There is a good deal of coffee land on this island, on Maui and on Hawaii—in fact, on all of the islands."

"Would not coffee production bring in another class of people?"

"Yes. It would bring in small farmers and white people, men who work for themselves. They would take care of their own farms. They would have to hire some labor, especially at picking time."

"Ideas on Coffee Growing."

"How large need a coffee plantation be? At Riverside, Cal., ten acres are enough for an orange grove."

"Ten acres upward would be enough to start coffee."

"With an average crop what would the profit be?"

"Systematic cultivation is so recent that hardly any of the new farms are in full bearing, but as the promise of the young trees is great I do not see why they should not produce from a ton to a ton and a half, some people say two tons an acre. That represents a great deal of money, because coffee is a very valuable crop. It would be \$340 if an acre produced but one ton. Coffee sells at the coffee centers at 26 cents a pound, so there is a large margin for increase of profit. Probably the coffee growers will not sell to middlemen, but send their crops direct to the main market. Twenty-five cents a pound would be \$500 an acre, or \$5000 for ten acres. With a large yield, of course, the possibilities are greater."

"There are eight islands, are there not?"

"Eight large islands. The land at the same elevation is pretty much alike. Some of the small islands have no forests because they are too low."

"What do you do with them?"

"They are used for ranching. The small islands have no streams, no running water, and so far ranchers have not experimented with artesian wells. There is a lot of fine arable soil that has never been cultivated."

"How large a population could all these islands sustain?"

"A million."

"And you have at present less than 100,000?"

"Yes."

"Touching the Organic Law."

"Mr. President, in some respects your constitution seems to me much better than ours. You have property, educational and moral qualifications. Your voters must be in some decent business."

"If he is not a property owner, he must be industrious. In talking to Ann Arbor students the other day Senator Hill mentioned some changes which he thought should be made in your constitution; the President should not succeed himself and should be elected for a six years' term, and the President should have the right of veto of individual items of appropriation bills. He seems to have been reading our constitution."

"Will you tell me the history of your constitution?"

"When we found that annexation was doomed to indefinite delay the question arose what we should do, and of course we decided to immediately organize a permanent form of government. An election for a constitutional convention was called, and Mr. Thurston in Washington and I in Honolulu, unknown to each other, began to work on a constitution. I devoted almost my whole time to it, stayed at home, had the books I wanted and worked deliberately. When Mr. Thurston returned he and I pooled our issues. We read our drafts over together, make changes and fused the two, taking such parts from both as we thought best. Then we had this draft printed and we called together the cabinet and a number of gentlemen who represented almost every kind of work in the islands, about sixteen men in all, including ourselves. We went over this draft section by section, paragraph by paragraph, word for word, and voted on every point. I think that body spent several weeks on it, meeting every day, and got through just in time for the convention. The convention went over it in the same way, section by section; so it had, you see, about four complete drafts."

"Did the convention make any radical changes?"

"They made changes in detail, but I don't think they changed the spirit of the constitution in any particular."

"As there is no more time in Hawaii than in the United States, and as I had monopolized President Dole for an hour and a half, at this point conscience forced me to suspend an interview that inclination would have prolonged indefinitely."

KATE FIELD.

THE SCOTTISH THISTLE.

A Burns "Nicht"—Distinguished Visitors Present.

The members of the Scottish Thistle Club entertained the three visiting members of the Queensland ministry and many other friends at their hall last night, the occasion being the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. A. C. Steele, the newly elected chief occupied the chair, and in addition to acquitting himself in that position rendered a famous old Scotch song in an acceptable manner. Secretary Black read an address in which he gave a sketch of the early life of the poet.

Throughout the address there were frequent quotations from Burns' works adapted to the occasion. Mr. William Eadie and George Dall played a duet on the violin and flute, respectively, and in other ways contributed to the pleasures of the evening.

When nearly at the close of the Scotch portion of the program, ex-Chief Logan, in an impromptu speech, called for a toast to the guests who had "dropped up" from Queensland. Premier Nelson, who was born in Burns' town and whose grandfather was a companion of the poet when he received the inspiration which resulted in his world famous poem,

"O wad some power the giftie gie us."

Mr. Philp, another member from Queensland, made a very happy address, in which he spoke of the cordial manner in which they had been treated on the islands. He closed with a promise that Queensland should profit by their visit to the islands to the extent that the knowledge they had gained relative to the production of sugar here would be communicated to the planters there, and he believed it would result in larger crops.

During the part of the program where the guests were not restricted as to the nationality of their songs and recitations, Chester A. Doyle sang "Shadows on the wall," and for an encore, "The Band Played On." Other persons were called upon during the evening and helped make the event pass off pleasantly.

KAU NOTES.

Trip of the President and Party. Volcano Still Active.

President Dole and party were entertained at Waiohina by George Hewitt on the 11th, and on the following night a mass-meeting of citizens was called by the Hawaiians, and words of welcome were spoken by several persons on the committee. On Monday the party visited Punaluu and spent most of the day shooting. At the close of the school hour the President met the scholars and made a speech.

During the evening they visited Pahala and were entertained by C. M. Walton. Everyone in the vicinity called and presented their respects to the President.

Tuesday was spent with Julien Monsarrat and family at Kapapala. Tuesday night Samuel Parker entertained the distinguished guests at his Hanalei ranch. It was believed they would board a sloop at Kawaihae yesterday and proceed to Kailua. It will take several days to reach this point, as it is the intention of the party to stop at all the points on the line. They will probably return here by the next W. G. Hall.

The lake at the crater is still growing and is rapidly reaching the surface.

Claus Spreckels at Santa Cruz. SANTA CRUZ, CAL., Jan. 10.—The tug Fearless, Captain Haskell in command, was in port a short time this morning, with Mr. and Mrs. Claus Spreckels on board. The boat remained in port only a short time and then went to Aptos.

Captain Scott and special Cordes made an opium catch yesterday afternoon. Ah Pung, a Chinaman living near No. 5 engine house was suspected of having opium in possession. An informer was put on his track. The unsuspecting Chinaman promised to sell this person some opium if he would be at a spot at a certain time. Captain Scott and special Cordes met the man on his way to the appointed spot and found three tins of opium on his person.

For a pain in the chest a piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound on over the seat of pain, and another on the back between the shoulders, will afford prompt relief. This is especially valuable in cases where the pain is caused by a cold and there is a tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by all druggists and dealers. BENSON, SMITH & Co. agents for H.I.



LOUISE MICHEL COMING TO AMERICA. Louise Michel, the "Red Virgin" of France, the most famous anarchist in the world, is to pay a visit to America. She is about 60 years old and became famous as an anarchist during the bloody scenes of the Commune. She is still anxious to bring about the complete overthrow of government.

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